

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1079

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the musical contributions of Charlie Daniels.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those noteworthy Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary musical talents, have earned the universal respect of their peers and fans; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with many exemplary citizens who have made significant contributions to the field of country and popular music; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding musician who has become a permanent fixture of American music is Mr. Charlie Daniels; and

WHEREAS, his countless contributions were deservedly recognized in March of 2008, when Charlie Daniels gathered with friends and family in a special reception at BMI's Music Row offices in Nashville to celebrate Mr. Daniels's fifty-year anniversary in the music industry; and

WHEREAS, hosted by BMI's Vice-President of Writer/Publisher Relations, Judy Williams, the event included presentations and recognitions from Nashville Mayor Karl Dean; Gaylord Entertainment's Senior Vice-President of Media and Entertainment, Steve Buchanan, on behalf of the Grand Ole Opry; Mr. Daniels's longtime manager and President of Blue Hat Records, David Corlew; and from other prominent figures, both in the music industry and in Charlie Daniels's life; and

WHEREAS, the presenters recognized Mr. Daniels's considerable musical and humanitarian achievements, such as his dedication and unwavering support of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, the historical and cultural impact of his Volunteer Jam concerts, and his unparalleled legacy as both a musician and songwriter; and

WHEREAS, this year has been very eventful for Charlie Daniels; after receiving an invitation to join the Grand Ole Opry from Martina McBride in November of 2007, Mr. Daniels was inducted by Marty Stuart and Connie Smith during the January 19, 2008, edition of the Grand Ole Opry at the Ryman Auditorium and was awarded a Career Achievement Award by the Country Radio Broadcasters; and

WHEREAS, he also has a current CD release, *Deuces*, which is his first duet album and features such notable artists as Travis Tritt, Gretchen Wilson, Vince Gill, Gary and Randy Scruggs, Dolly Parton, Brenda Lee, Brooks and Dunn, Marty Stuart, Montgomery Gentry, and Brad Paisley; and

WHEREAS, a singer, guitarist, and fiddler, Charlie Daniels's began his celebrated career in the 1950s; in 1964, he co-wrote the song, *It Hurts Me*, which was recorded by Elvis Presley; and

WHEREAS, working as a Nashville session musician, Mr. Daniels played on three Bob Dylan albums, in addition to recordings by Johnny Cash and Leonard Cohen; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Daniels recorded his first solo album, *Charlie Daniels*, in 1971, but it was his 1973 second album, *Honey in the Rock*, that produced his first hit song, *Uneasy Rider*, which reached number nine on the Billboard Hot 100 chart; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Mr. Daniels organized the first in a series of Volunteer Jam concerts that, with the exception of a three-year hiatus in the late 1980s, continue to this day; and

WHEREAS, after continuing to produce hit songs, such as 1975's southern rock anthem, *The South's Gonna Do It Again*, Charlie Daniels won the Grammy Award for Best Country Vocal Performance in 1979 for his greatest success, *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*; the song reached number three on the music charts, became a crossover hit on rock radio stations, and still today receives regular airplay on rock and country radio stations; and

WHEREAS, in addition to producing winning country albums, Charlie Daniels has released several gospel and Christian records; and

WHEREAS, his many awards and accomplishments aside, Mr. Daniels is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife, Hazel; together, they have been

locally involved in the betterment of their Mt. Juliet community and have admirably served as true examples of patriotism with their stalwart support of the valiant men and women of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Daniels epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniels's widespread influence is peerless, and he has shown himself to be a catalyst of musical inspiration; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Charlie Daniels for his worthwhile contributions and for fifty years of incomparable service to producing highly entertaining music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the numerous contributions of Charlie Daniels to American country music and culture and salute him on his fifty years of outstanding success and longevity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.